

MARYLAND AGRI-FACTS



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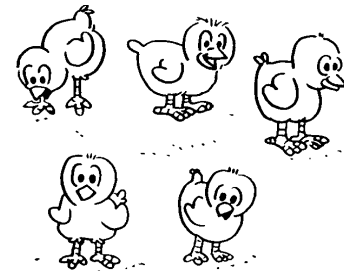
CHICKENS & EGGS

Maryland laying flocks produced 65 million eggs during February 2002, of which 61 million were table eggs and 4 million were hatching eggs. The average rate of lay was 73.6 percent. The average number of layers on hand during February 2002 was 3,154,000. On March 1, 2002, 12.0 percent of the layers in Maryland were being molted and 29.5 percent of all layers had been through a molt.

United States egg production totaled 6.56 billion during February 2002, up 1 percent from last year. Production included 5.57 billion table eggs and 987 million hatching eggs, of which 929 million were broiler-type and 58.0 million were egg-type. The total number of layers during February 2002 averaged 337 million, slightly higher than the average number of layers during February 2001. February egg production per 100 layers was 1,946 eggs, up slightly from the 943 eggs in February 2001. February 2002 contained 20 weekdays, one holiday and four Saturdays, equal to February 2001.

CONTENTS

Agricultural Prices
Chickens & Eggs
Farm Labor
Maryland Cash Rents



Eggs and Layers: February 2001 and 2002

Item	2001	2002	2002/2001
Eggs Produced During FebruaryMillion.....		Percent
U.S.	6,524	6,557	101
Maryland	62	65	105
Layers, Average Number During FebruaryThousand.....		
U.S.	335,813	336,896	100
Maryland	3,021	3,154	104
Eggs/100 Layers During FebruaryNumber.....		
U.S.	1,943	1,946	100
Maryland	2,052	2,061	100

FARM LABOR

There were 914,000 hired workers on the Nation's farms and ranches the week of January 6-12, 2002, up 7 percent from a year ago. Of these hired workers, 731,000 workers were hired directly by farm operators. Agricultural service employees on farms and ranches made up the remaining 183,000 workers. Migrant workers accounted for 7.6 percent of the January hired workforce compared with 9.6 percent last year. Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of

\$8.96 per hour during the January 2002 survey week, up 30 cents from a year earlier. Field workers received an average of \$8.25 per hour, up 49 cents from last January, while livestock workers earned \$8.25 per hour compared with \$8.07 a year earlier. The field and livestock worker combined wage rate at \$8.25 was up 38 cents from last year.

FARM LABOR: EMPLOYMENT AND WAGE RATES, UNITED STATES, JANUARY 06-12, 2002, WITH COMPARISON ¹

FARM EMPLOYMENT	JANUARY 07-13, 2001	OCTOBER 07-13, 2001	JANUARY 06-12, 2002
<i>THOUSAND</i>			
<i>Hired Workers</i>			
Expected to be Employed	691	* 991	731
150 Days or More	573	* 708	597
149 Days or Less	118	283	134
Agricultural Services Workers Working on Farms	165	262	183
<i>Hired Farm & Service Workers</i>	856	*1,253	914
<i>HOURS PER WEEK</i>			
<i>Hours Worked Hired</i>	37.3	* 41.7	38.6
<i>DOLLARS PER HOUR</i>			
<i>Wage Rates for All Hired Workers</i> ^{2,3}	8.66	* 8.59	8.96
Type of Worker			
Field & Livestock Combined	7.87	* 8.09	8.25
Field	7.76	8.01	8.25
Livestock	8.07	* 8.39	8.25

* Revised.

¹ Excludes AK.

² Benefits, such as housing and meals, are provided some workers but the values are not included in the wage rates.

³ Excludes Agricultural Service Workers.

AGRICULTURAL PRICES

Prices received for the month of March were up for most crops. The wheat price was unchanged at \$2.62 per bushel. The barley price was up eighteen cents to a price of \$1.56 per bushel. Soybeans moved up twenty-two cents per bushel from last month's price of \$4.31 and corn was up two cents to \$2.25 per bushel.

Livestock prices varied for the month of March. Calf prices were up to \$95.10 per cwt but beef cattle had an eighty cents per cwt decrease. Hog prices decreased to \$34.10 per cwt.

Commodity	Unit	Maryland and Delaware			United States			Parity Price
		MAR 2001	FEB 2002	MAR 2002	MAR 2001	FEB 2002	MAR 2002 ¹	
		Dollars						
Wheat, Winter	BU	2.32	2.62	2.62	2.85	2.75	2.76	9.38
Corn	BU	2.08	2.23	2.25	1.96	1.93	1.92	6.35
Barley	BU	1.47	1.38	1.56	2.07	2.21	2.26	6.24
Soybeans	BU	4.45	4.31	4.53	4.39	4.21	4.39	13.90
All Hay, Baled	TON	108.00	129.00	152.00	90.10	90.40	91.40	----
Apples, Fresh	LB	0.219	0.241	0.236	0.146	0.214	0.210	0.468
All Beef Cattle	CWT	75.90	72.90	72.10	76.00	69.90	71.60	155.00
Calves	CWT	90.40	92.00	95.10	112.00	105.00	104.00	206.00
Hogs	CWT	40.10	36.00	34.10	45.90	38.50	36.30	100.00
Milk, Fluid MKT	CWT	14.90	15.40	14.50	13.90	13.10	12.70	32.20
Chickens <u>2/</u>	LB	0.080	0.088	0.087	----	----	----	----
Broilers	LB	0.370	0.345	0.377	0.400	0.340	0.320	----
Turkeys, Live	LB	----	----	----	0.371	0.341	0.329	0.943
Eggs, Market	DOZ	0.620	0.471	0.568	0.518	0.366	0.515	1.51

¹ Mid-Month Forecast, Entire Month Price.

² Does not include broilers

INDEX OF PRICES RECEIVED			
INDEX AND RATIOS	UNITED STATES 1990 - 92 =100		
	MAR 2001	FEB 2002*	MAR 2002
All Farm Products	104	99	106
All Crops	99	101	117
Feed Grain & Hay	91	*91	91
Oil- Bearing Crops	78	76	79
Fruits & Nuts	95	*85	99
All Livestock and Livestock Products	108	97	96
Meat Animals	103	93	93
Dairy Products	106	*100	97
Poultry and Eggs	119	100	101
Ratio 1/	84	81	87
Prices Paid Index	124	122	122

* Revised

1/ Ratio of index of prices received by farmers to index of prices paid.

MARYLAND CASH RENTS

Cash rent for cropland in Maryland was up \$1.30 from last year according to the Maryland Agricultural Statistics Service. Average cash rent for cropland was \$55.50 per acre in 2001, compared to \$54.20 per acre in 2000. Since 1995, cash rent has increased \$10.80 per acre. Cash rents are highest on the Eastern Shore and lowest in Western and Southern Maryland. Kent county

has the highest average rent per acre at \$79.49, followed by Talbot at \$78.32, and Queen Anne's at \$74.65. Garrett county has the lowest rent at \$29.92, followed by St. Mary's at \$30.69, and Charles at \$35.57.

Maryland Cropland Cash Rents by County

<i>County</i>	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001
<i>Dollars Per Acre</i>					
<i>Allegany</i>	30.66	30.89	37.28	39.22	36.26
<i>Anne Arundel</i>	32.33	34.96	47.51	48.71	47.41
<i>Baltimore</i>	52.53	60.49	56.35	60.88	64.47
<i>Calvert</i>	43.36	41.73	37.41	42.61	43.53
<i>Caroline</i>	63.67	65.58	62.48	61.00	62.23
<i>Carroll</i>	45.11	58.41	58.11	59.66	59.05
<i>Cecil</i>	72.20	60.58	55.34	53.78	60.58
<i>Charles</i>	30.25	34.81	33.79	31.03	35.57
<i>Dorchester</i>	54.62	64.49	77.29	73.05	73.58
<i>Frederick</i>	47.57	48.07	48.84	51.14	53.03
<i>Garrett</i>	54.11	27.32	30.53	26.13	29.92
<i>Harford</i>	74.74	71.29	59.74	63.73	68.04
<i>Howard</i>	41.58	49.15	51.81	54.60	51.67
<i>Kent</i>	68.09	87.46	72.59	75.49	79.49
<i>Montgomery</i>	49.80	49.12	49.20	44.45	45.69
<i>Prince George's</i>	33.72	33.21	31.81	34.13	35.88
<i>Queen Anne's</i>	72.57	81.46	78.53	72.46	74.65
<i>St. Mary's</i>	23.97	25.84	28.11	28.22	30.69
<i>Somerset</i>	60.41	66.43	66.29	60.88	62.18
<i>Talbot</i>	59.00	82.39	87.10	86.46	78.32
<i>Washington</i>	59.57	47.72	52.34	52.35	55.13
<i>Wicomico</i>	44.70	55.43	58.28	59.66	58.65
<i>Worcester</i>	65.28	65.21	65.98	66.97	70.54
State Average	51.30	54.00	54.20	54.20	55.50

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